

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14-20 and 31-51 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 48 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 8 and paragraphs [0127] and [0128]. Claims 36 and 41-43 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0136] and [0137]. Claim 9 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 2A and 2B, and paragraphs [0110] and [0111]. Independent claim 32 is amended to depend from claim 9. Dependent claims 13-16, 20 and 40 are also amended. Non-elected claims 21-30 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Turocy for the courtesy extended through Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the June 14, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 31-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2000-323276 to Seki et al. in view of JP 06-306181 to Hiraga et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,898,443 to Yoshino et al. and the Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA); and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Seki in view of Hiraga, Yoshino and AAPA further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,296,354 to Hashimoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

I. The Applied References Do Not Disclose Or Suggest The Subject Matter Recited In The Claims

Claim 1 is amended to recite the step of "gasifying a first material by heating the first material to form the first material in a form of gas," as outlined above. Claim 48 is amended to recite similar features. The applied references do not disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action asserts, at page 4, second paragraph, that Yoshino discloses heating of the ink. However, such heating is to generate bubbles to expel ink. (See col. 18, lines 24-

50.) Such heating is not used to assist gasification of the ink. Therefore, Yoshino does not disclose or suggest "gasifying a first material by heating the first material to form the first material in a form of gas," as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 48. Also, Seki, Hiraga and AAPA do not supply the subject matter lacking in Yoshino. Hence, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 48.

Claim 9 is amended to recite "forming a first film of the plurality of films on a first area of the base," and "forming a second film of the plurality of films on a second area of the base," as outlined above. The applied references do not disclose or suggest these features.

For example, Hiraga discloses forming a thin film having a desired structure and thickness. See paragraph [0032] at col. 9, lines 16-21. Hiraga discloses a manipulator 15 that performs fine-adjustment of the location and orientation of a substrate for forming such a thin film. Hiraga does not disclose or suggest forming a plurality of films at different areas of the base by changing relative position between a nozzle and the base. Therefore, Hiraga does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 9. Also, Seki, Yoshino and AAPA do not supply the subject matter lacking in Hiraga. Thus, Seki, Hiraga, Yoshino and AAPA, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 9.

Claims 36 and 41-43 are amended, as outlined above, to recite a nozzle movement during at least a part of a period in which the ejecting is carried out. The applied references do not disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action asserts that Yoshino discloses nozzle scanning during ejection of gasified material in Figs. 4-8 (see page 6, paragraph 4 of the November 8, 2005 Office Action). However, Figs. 4-8 of Yoshino merely disclose a scanning direction of a nozzle. These Figures do not disclose or suggest nozzle scanning during ejection of gasified material.

Therefore, Yoshino does not disclose or suggest a plurality of nozzles that move during at least part of a period in which the ejecting is carried out, as recited in claim 36, and similarly recited in claims 41-43.

Seki, Hiraga and AAPA do not supply the subject matter lacking in Yoshino. For example, as indicated in the personal interview, Seki only discloses moving a nozzle to a position for ejecting ink. Seki does not disclose or suggest ejecting ink while the nozzle is moving. Thus, Seki does not disclose or suggest a nozzle that moves during the ejecting of ink.

In view of the above, Yoshino, Seki, Hiraga and AAPA, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 36 and 41-43.

In view of the above, Seki, Hiraga, Yoshino and AAPA do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 9, 36, 41-43 and 48, and claims 2-8, 10-20, 31-35, 37-40 and 42-47 depending therefrom.

II. One of Ordinary Skill Would Not Have Been Motivated To Combine Yoshino With Seki, Hiraga and AAPA

As discussed during the personal interview, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Yoshino with Seki, Hiraga and AAPA, because Yoshino is directed to ordinary printers, which are used under atmospheric pressure, not in vacuum.

During the personal interview, it was discussed whether the "detection" feature of Yoshino may be singled out and combined with the other references. As Applicant asserted during the personal interview, such a combination would be impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the claims by picking and choosing features out of references using the claims as a roadmap. For example, Yoshino is directed to heating ink to cause boiling to generate bubbles. Yoshino clearly discloses apparatuses and methods within the context of

atmospheric pressure, not in vacuum. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Yoshino with the teachings of the other references.

III. Conclusion

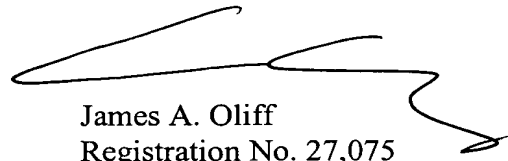
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 14-20 and 31-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 49-51 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 41, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 14-20 and 31-51 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/tls

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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